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PLATFORM

Taking your skills with you

Chris Hayes proposes a YTS model that would train young people to function effectively in a variety of fields, both in and out of employment.



Can old skills be welded onto a new job?

The MSC preclaims emphatically that the Youth Training Scheme (YTS) is to be employer-led and that its first aim, whatever others might follow, is to improve the employability of young people between 16 and 18. I describe the scheme as "new" because it has not yet started and the ground rules are still emerging.

Until now, the absence of any "official" MSC policy on content and standards has allowed the many power centres in its head office and regional and local offices to make their own policy on "quality", according to their estimation of the situation and their own value judgments. Hence the immense confusion among those who are to play a role in the scheme.

The question is: will this framework provide enough opportunities for young people to function successfully in and out of employment and also to enable them to retain a foothold in the mainstream of society? Some believe that the answer is "no" and that other alternatives need to be sought. Others believe that persistent criticism of its shortcomings can change the nature of the scheme. Others, again, believe that working inside the scheme offers opportunities for securing desirable change, while a final group want the best of all worlds through the pursuit of all three activities simultaneously.

I belong to those who want to help make YTS as good as it can be. The scheme, in its infancy, is in the face of highly articulate opposition, needs all the help it can get.

Any drive for a better quality scheme is based on certain assumptions:

1. That the scheme should be developed on the basis of an employer training a young person for a known job or occupation in his own employment. Neither of these two assumptions holds good in YTS.

2. That two equally long-established ideas about teaching will also have to be modified. First, that people only learn when they are being taught, and, second, that knowing about things learned is enough. Most people learn how to do things when they are trying to do them in real life.

Four things need to be achieved to meet the needs of young people, of employers and of potential employers.

There must be some inbuilt provision for widening the work experience training programme beyond its job-specific and employer-specific character. Other countries which introduced a foundation training year earlier than the UK concluded that a single job ought to be widened to a "family" of jobs and occupations. They opted for groupings with diffe-

rent names - for example, occupational fields in Germany, occupational lines in Sweden. They all recognized that you could not prepare young people for every conceivable job in the future, but that being able to transfer skills from one occupation to another was essential.

Contact with real life could not be postponed for ever. Since you cannot train for all occupations simultaneously, a selection has to be made. Our proposal is for 11 occupational training "families" each of which has a clearly recognizable "key purpose".

There must be an opportunity to do a job "for real". Everybody gains self-confidence by succeeding in a task which can be seen to play a part in an enterprise in which others are involved. It may entail the use of some technical or other skills but the critical element is the success of "doing it" under stress, sometimes in unfamiliar circumstances containing unforeseen elements - in other words, real life. This step of managing a real job, however humble, is particularly important for those who have never derived great satisfaction or been greatly motivated by examinations. Bridging the gap between "knowing about" and "doing" is also a first step in gaining the kind of independence needed to work in the world outside

employment.

Because the provider of training is not likely to be the future employer, he needs to pass on more of the skills to the trainee than is customary in traditional training, or for that matter, further education. "Skill ownership" is important to young people when they change their jobs - and especially when they want to play an active role in periods of unemployment. It is more easily achieved in some occupations than in others. For example, a door-to-door salesman who learns and repeats phrases by heart and who must not use any others, will only take away the capacity to learn by heart - and perhaps to put a foot in the door. Another salesman who is trained to open a relationship with a potential customer, explore the customer's interests and relate them to a range of products whose properties are known, persuade the customer to buy and open the way for a return visit in a month's time, will collect a whole series of skills.

Finally, YTS needs to provide opportunities for practice in redeploying skills and knowledge acquired in one set of circumstances to new and unfamiliar situations. It is the ability to transfer skills, a per-

sonal quality, which needs to be promoted and not the search for skills which might be common to different occupations.

It is clear that it would be shocking reality if any youth training programme pretended that employability was the only object. Many young people will experience periods of unemployment and in some areas this will be the rule rather than the exception. Any scheme which avoids these issues would be seen as a "con".

One response, which we considered for the report we are preparing for the MSC, is to look at the world outside employment as another occupational training family with its own "key purpose" and coherent training programme. We rejected this on educational and on political grounds. On the other hand, a scheme which refused to recognize unemployment was equally unacceptable to us. We therefore examined to what extent the four principles contributed to competence in the world outside employment.

To do this, we needed to know the most important positive roles which young people would want to play in the world outside employment. Our own inquiries as well as a good deal of written and verbal evidence produced a substantial list of activities which we grouped under six main headings:

- 1 Personal survival
- 2 Exercising citizenship
- 3 Contributing to the community
- 4 Self-employment
- 5 Leisure activities
- 6 Full or part-time education

By personal survival, we mean understanding the maintenance of physical health and hygiene, including the management of a home and the necessary cooking, exercising citizenship means obtaining social benefits and exercising a citizen's rights such as voting in elections. Contributing to the community means offering personal skills for use in the community. Use of leisure facilities and use of further education are self-explanatory.

An analysis of the skills a young person would need to carry out all of these roles effectively led us to compare them with those which a trainee could hope to acquire under favourable circumstances in YTS.

To some extent this depends on the transferability of skills. If it were true that "being good with people" or having interpersonal skills is the same for a bus conductor, a salesman, a mechanic, a typist and a

cowhand, then the problem would be less difficult to tackle. The evidence we have leads us to believe that the ability to act competently in one situation or context does not itself ensure competence in a familiar situation. It is experience and practice which can strengthen a person's ability to redeploy competence in unfamiliar circumstances.

So that the more that a person's skills can be achieved, the greater the probability that a young person will be able to manage effectively in and out of employment.

The skills needed in the world of employment roles can be grouped roughly into four main categories:

- 1 Those which could be taught in a good programme of experience/training - for example, woodwork, typing, cooking.
- 2 Those which could be learned on the job - for example, the off-the-job element of a craft.
- 3 Those which could be learned through the encouragement of a mentor.
- 4 Those for which no adequate vision can be made within the current (mode A) framework.

We shall be drawing MSC attention to some of the consequences and to possible options for reactions.

I would not like to overstate the article without mentioning the fact that YTS is taking on a new role. The report of the MSC on YTS to weaken rather than to force discrimination against girls and to expand opportunities for the handicapped.

Since then there have been words but not much action. The MSC is a voluntary body which the managing agencies have full freedom to select and implement to their own ends.

It is a source of some concern that the MSC is requiring details about sex, ethnic group, disability. This is a first step towards what all talk about equal opportunities must remain.

It is only a first step towards information which will be made available to employers and to the public. MSC ought to be doing what nobody else is doing with the courage to do.

This article is based on a paper presented at the Training for Skill Conference, MSC, by the Institute of Education, London.

Sir Keith accused of reinforcing view that science has all the answers

Physics teachers oppose ban on social questions

by Nick Wood

Science teachers have firmly rejected Sir Keith Joseph's proposed ban on exam questions dealing with the social and economic implications of the subject.

They say it is at odds with his parallel aim of encouraging a greater emphasis on technology in lessons and exams and would reinforce the "false view" that science has the answer to every problem.

The Association for Science Education, the major professional body for science teachers, which has 17,000 members, makes its case in a detailed paper, the product of eight weeks' deliberation, sent to the Education Secretary last week.

The paper comes after Sir Keith's dismissive response in March to the draft guidelines for physics which said the youngsters taking the new 16-plus exam should be tested on their understanding of how the subject impinged on everyday life, including major questions of the day such as nuclear power.

He told the exam boards that such an approach was unacceptable because it could lead to "irrelevance" in the teaching of science subjects and might encourage them to "teach to the test".

His comments caused controversy, notably at the National Union of Teachers' conference in Jersey where Mr Fred Jarvis, the general secretary, said they were yet more evidence of ministers seeking to control over the school curriculum.

The ASE argues: "We support the view that social and economic considerations should form part of the content criteria for physics and should be examined in any examination which has the title of physics."

Unless these matters are specifically part of the criteria, they will not find their way into the over-simplified courses that currently exist and which traditionally shun such considerations.

Union takes bite in lunch duties dispute

by Richard Garner

A teachers' leader has accused leaders of rival unions of backsliding on their commitment to the 1968 school meals agreement which made lunchtime supervision for teachers a voluntary duty.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, was speaking at a rally of striking London teachers who were protesting about the Labour-controlled Inner London Education Authority's negotiations with its

teachers over a new contract. The NAS/UIT, which instructed its 6,000 inner London members to take half-day strike action last Tuesday, is boycotting the talks - in which the ILEA wants the teacher to commit themselves to carrying out a certain amount of voluntary duty every month.

Mr Smithies said: "I am not entirely convinced that all of our colleagues' unions are still determined to protect the voluntary principle so far as midday break activities are

concerned. They must justify any inclination towards backsliding to their members."

Other teachers' organizations promptly accused the NAS/UIT of being dishonest, and demanded a retraction.

Tuesday's action led to at least 14 schools being closed for the afternoon. A total of 67 were affected with classes being sent home early or schools shortening the two sessions to end lessons early.



Comic interlude: Michael Rader, Minister of Education for the Official Monster Raving Loony Party, has a study session with his portfolio even though his party has no known, overall education policy. It does, however, propose an Academy of Best in memory of the Beatles.

HMIs top long-hours table

Her Majesty's Inspectors are the most hard-working of government officials, according to a First Division Association survey. And overall, the Department of Education's top officials work longer hours than other senior civil servants.

The association, representing 8,000 of Whitehall's mandarins, carried out its survey because it suspected members were being overworked as a result of manpower cuts.

On average, senior officials were working 46.6 hours a week, excluding lunch hours, 10 hours more than the official requirement and over eight hours more than the average

of non-manual male workers. But London-based HMIs were pulling in 62.5 hours a week. Of these, 47 were spent in the "office", including travelling on official business, 10.4 were devoted to paper work at home and they spent just over five working at the weekend.

Inspectors outside London worked an average of 58.5 hours, of which 44.7 were spent in the "office" or travelling.

The Inspectorate's working hours pull the average for Department of Education officials up to 54.7, just behind the highest departmental average - 54.8 - of the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

"We have an excellent teaching track record, purpose-built premises and marvellous relations with students of which the council should be proud."

Sacked lecturers from Croydon Further Education College attempted to hand-back their notices to education officials this week in a 400-strong demonstration. But no one left the building to accept them. The Conservative-controlled authority issued notices to the full-time staff last month inviting them to accept new contracts from August 31 with poorer conditions of service.

NEWS

Spending cuts demoralize heads

by Biddy Passmore

Fresh evidence of decline and demoralization emerges from parents' surveys of spending cuts in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

In the St Albans division of Hertfordshire - one of the higher-spending county councils - one head remarked: "In over 25 years as head teacher this is the first time I have felt disillusioned. The schools are now dependent on the parents' generosity."

Another appeared dumbfounded by the cuts and wrote: "I feel less strongly this year than last. Don't one become resigned, acclimatized or quietly despairing? And a third said simply: "When will the cuts stop? We have reached rock bottom."

They were commenting on a ques-

tionnaire devised by the St Albans Campaign for the Advancement of State Education (CASE), a parents' body which was making its fourth annual survey of cuts.

CASE found a reduction of 210 in nursery and primary teaching jobs, only 149 of which were due to falling rolls. In secondary schools, 209 teachers had gone, less than half (96) because of falling rolls. Auxiliary staff hours had been cut, foreign language assistants abolished and maintenance allowances for students over 16 halved.

In Cambridgeshire, a group of head teachers and parents drew up a list of basic requirements for books and equipment in primary and secondary schools and compared it

with actual spending.

The group found that the primary curriculum demands more for any spending at all. Reading schemes, books and project materials, duplicated equipment or playgroup equipment, of which they considered "to provide for schools as well as them."

In secondary schools, the group found that an allowance for a professional contact between teachers and former inmates which was governed by Prison Rule 61. It is understood that Mr Brown tried to work on Monday after his annual leave.

The two surveys are being published in the magazine of the Centre for Education, 18 Park Square, London E4 6PR.

ILEA joins row on jail suspension

The Inner London Education Authority has told the governor of Holloway Prison that she has no power to suspend the jail's chief education officer.

The authority has written to Miss Kinley, the governor, this week, refusing her for an explanation of her refusal to allow Mr Richard Brown to work on Monday after his annual leave.

Mr Brown, who is employed by ILEA, was asked by Miss Kinley to return following a dispute between professional contact between teachers and former inmates which was governed by Prison Rule 61. It is understood that Mr Brown tried to work on Monday after his annual leave.

The Education staff at the prison have demanded an official investigation.

Switch for languages urged

Modern languages should be taught differently to able and less able pupils from the start, suggests a new consultative paper on modern language teaching from the Department of Education and Science.

The paper also calls for a determined attempt to build up languages other than French, and to make sure that reasonable linguists keep up their languages after the age of 16.

All the efforts to improve language teaching in recent years have

not paid off, says the paper. Schools should lay the foundations for serious language learning, and give their pupils a feeling of success, not failure, at learning languages.

Foreign Languages in the School Curriculum is available free from Room 396, Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH. Comments are requested by October 31.

Little change on admissions

Major changes in Oxford University's admissions procedure seem unlikely to emerge from the committee of inquiry chaired by Sir Kenneth Dover, president of Corpus Christi College.

No reforms have been ruled out but the committee's interim report suggests a moving towards a simplification of the current procedures and the

introduction of more cooperation between colleges.

The report's cautious approach has enraged the university's students' union, which recently published its own review of the admissions procedure calling for the abolition of the entrance exam and the introduction of quotas to force an increase in the proportion of students (currently half) from state schools.



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THE TIMES SUPPLEMENTS' REPRINT SERVICE SCHOOL VISITS

In February this year The Times Educational Supplement published a special 16-page feature on School Visits. It gives details on day trips to various museums, the Stook Exchange and historical buildings all round the UK as well as covering Venture Weeks, a "Do-it-yourself Europe" survival course together with tips on how to make your school visits enjoyable occasions for both pupils and teachers.

This is now available in reprint form, price £1.00 and can be obtained by sending a cheque/postal order made payable to Times Newspapers Limited (no cash, please) to Frances Goddard, The Times Supplements, Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.

NEWS

Union in poll watch

by Richard Garner

The traditionally moderate Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association is the latest teachers' union to become directly involved in the General Election campaign.

It has sent a questionnaire to all candidates and the replies of those elected will be monitored to see that campaign pledges are kept.

This is a new departure for the 90,000-strong association, the third-largest teacher organization.

The National Union of Teachers has already sent a similar questionnaire and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers is expected to do the same.

The introduction to AMMA's questionnaire criticizes the Government's policies towards education. Mr Peter Smith, the union's deputy general secretary, insisted that the questionnaire was non-partisan and based on motions agreed at AMMA's annual conferences.

It will be distributed to all election candidates by branch officers who will then let their members know details of replies they receive.

The first question is critical of Government decisions to abolish the Schools Council, publish HMI reports and introduce central financing of the new training initiative and vocational education without consultation.

It urges candidates to pledge themselves to "reassert the proper relationship between central and local government" and to ensure that authorities retain autonomy over the services they provide.

It goes on to ask candidates to pledge themselves to visit schools and colleges to monitor whether they have enough resources to maintain standards and to ensure that the curriculum is the best possible education for all children and young people in your constituency, and to explain how they will do this.

The questionnaire talks of the low morale in the profession with teachers facing constant criticism and limited promotion prospects while they have to tackle increased social problems facing children which are causing behavioural difficulties.

WEA dispute

The dispute between 200 Workers' Educational Association tutors and their executive committee over courses for the unemployed remains unresolved on the eve of the association's biennial conference which starts in Harrogate today.

The tutors vetoed plans for the MSC-funded courses, arguing that they would go against the liberal adult education traditions of the WEA. Now the executive has issued a statement to conference delegates setting out its case.



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Praise despite stretched resources

by Virginia Makins

HMI reports

HMI reports are available from the Department of Education and Science, Publications Despatch Centre, Honeyopt Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AZ. Also available from L.E.A.s.

teachers' expectations of pupils' capabilities varied widely.

HMI found very good staff-student relations, and extracurricular activities which involved large numbers of pupils. They were encouraged to try curriculum working groups had been set up, and suggest more in-service across subject boundaries, and more use of the "energy and potential" of junior staff.

The Blessed Robert Johnson school in Telford, Shropshire, also needed a "more rational approach to curriculum planning and staff deployment".

After a short inspection, HMI found exam results ranging from "good to very weak" and at a level from "mediocre to poor". Expectations and demands on pupils were often too low.

The school is the only Roman Catholic secondary in Shropshire, and takes 750 pupils aged 11 to 18, about 80 of them in the sixth form. HMI found a happy school with good personal relationships. Great efforts were made to help difficult pupils fit in.

But the curriculum was imbalanced in many respects. HMI found too much religious education in the first three years, and too little science and English in some years. Options led to many older students doing no art and craft, or no PE.

Fourth and fifth-year teaching groups could be very large, but sixth-formers often had tiny teaching groups, and incoherent programmes. Remedial groups missed out on important curriculum areas, and remedial

dial withdrawal groups made for a pensive and questionable prospect.

Hall Mead comprehensive in London Borough of Havering asked to revise its curriculum, and review its banding strategy, which can determine not only the subjects but also the availability of subjects.

The school is a suburban 11-year-old comprehensive. It gets few new pupils and more than its share of able ones - though fewer than the average. Parents' lot of support, including financial support.

The school bands from the top with great care - but HMI found simpler and more flexible arrangements, and a more unified curriculum for different bands.

Exam results at 16 were very good. A level results were modest, but A level pupils were well-tended throughout the school. Some subjects, HMI suggested, varied and vivid teaching, some pupils' involvement.

More variety and differentiation were also called for in the middle years. Swannmore school in Hampshire takes 1,070 pupils from a rural area, and also has a higher average number of more able pupils. The school became comprehensive in 1978.

"Because the atmosphere of classrooms is generally so much more challenging, more investigative, and more independent activity is promoted", HMI says.

Once more, banding decisions were too early, and "set limits on expectations and development of the school's management system, formal, and worked well - but more precisely formulated written down."

HMI liked the way in which work in the fourth and fifth years was taken seriously, and the pace given to practical work. The school had mainly well-behaved, motivated pupils and a good atmosphere. Exam results at 16 "generally at least satisfactory" (the number of high grades in science and mathematics was particularly creditable).

Make reading fun, inspectors say

Whitebridge primary school, Leeds has a serious reading problem. This year when 7-year-olds were tested, only a quarter had reading ages equal to, or above, their chronological age, Virginia Makins writes.

The curriculum focused on reading and basic maths, with little time given to religious education, humanities, science, music, health education and environmental study. But the approach to English was much too narrow, say HMI. Reading was tackled by isolated exercises and the teaching of rules: even the competent readers showed little enjoyment or interest.

Children needed more help learning to listen, and more encouragement to talk about work. They needed to hear more good literature. At all ages, children spent too much time copying writing - sometimes writing they could not read. More personal and imaginative writing, including poetry, would benefit the pupils.

Too many children - 72 of the six to nines - were withdrawn for extra language work that focused on isolated skills and was divorced from ordinary class work. HMI suggests more support for the children within their regular classrooms.

The school is in a social priority area - 67 of the 284 children qualify for free dinners - and suffers from vandalism. Seven of the nine classrooms are small - making it difficult to create reading or practical corners - and the floor is mainly covered with "dark brown, cold and unyielding" tiles, HMI re-

ported. Furniture was often unsuitable. The youngest children needed more play materials, and the school needed more books.

Whitebridge has recently undergone a lot of changes, including the arrival of a new head and deputy, and developments were taking place. But in-service and advisory help was needed to achieve the improvements the head and staff were working for.

The approved HMI method of tackling reading and writing is clearly described in the HMI report on Woodhouse Roman Catholic Infant School, St Helens. The inspectors like the early attention to oral language and fluency, and the emphasis on talk before reading and writing were attempted. The approach was unbalanced and sensibly devised to develop confidence, and "rightly little time is given to the use of sterile English exercises".

The approach to mathematics was also unbalanced. "Play, incidental and planned experience, are all used to introduce counting and sorting without any haste to record." The older children turned readily to books, read with enthusiasm and had a good understanding of mathematical concepts.

But HMI found no systematic work in history and geography, and too little planning and progression in nature study. They suggest that the school needs a clearly defined and more balanced curriculum framework.

The effect a powerful and diplomatic new head can have in less than a year is shown by the HMI report on Shoreham-by-Sea first school in West Sussex. Buildings had been reorganised, corridors brought into use, liaison with parents developed and curriculum planning by the whole staff begun. "The school can now consider further curriculum development based on a foundation of debate and expertise," says HMI.

Better curriculum planning and guidelines are recommended for Roselife Church of England primary, North Yorkshire - though HMI recognizes the difficulties in a school with 27 fives to eleven-year-olds and two and a half teachers.

The school managed to give children a "rich and rewarding" variety of experiences and the inspectors found adequate resources - though the school could do with a wider range of books.

One series of early reading books "lacks relevance to the children's 'lives', and needed to be replaced when resources permitted. The infant classroom also had no provision for imaginative play, or for work with sand and water."

Reading standards were satisfactory - though one or two juniors needed expert help. In English the HMI suggest more drama, extended discussion, reading to juniors and encouraging them to read for pleasure, and creative and imaginative writing.

HMI approve the school's use of its surroundings for work, and its scientific withdrawal groups made for a pensive and questionable prospect.

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NEW

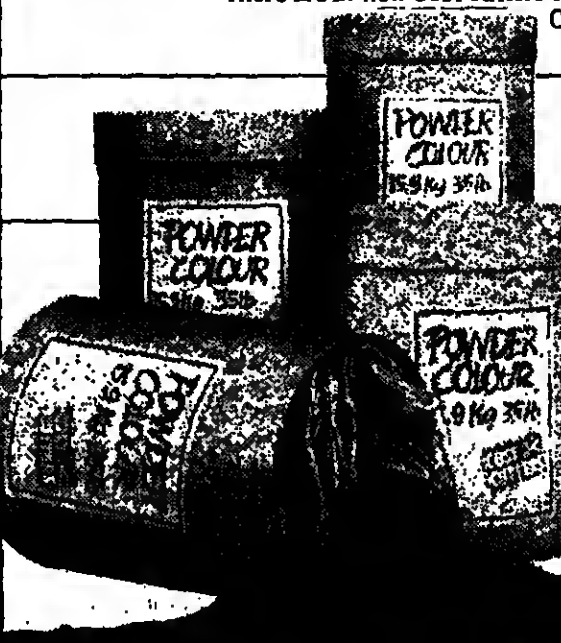
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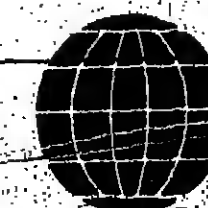
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dary school, student
of such education, with full
for each representative at all
days.

together, leaving less-favoured schools starved of resources.

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OVERSEAS

Brightening outlook on the independent front



Preservation assured... Aloisius-Kolleg, a private school in Bonn.

The opening this month of West Germany's first private university has underlined the vitality of the independent sector of education just as measures to cut state grants to private schools have been overturned in a court ruling.

Twenty-six medical students took up their places as the first intake of the Witten/Herdecke Private University on the banks of the Ruhr in North Rhine-Westphalia's industrial heartland, marking the end of years of controversy over state recognition for independent higher education.

Forty miles to the south, in the state capital of Düsseldorf, the ruling Social Democrats are still smarting over a Constitutional Court rejection of an amendment to the *Land* laws aimed at reducing state subsidies for independent schools.

While the new university's independence rests on its total reliance on private funding, the country's 1,000 private schools could not survive without massive allocations from the public purse. In 1981, the regional government of North Rhine-Westphalia pushed through a controversial amendment proposing a reduction of subsidies for private schools from 94 to 90 per cent of their running costs.

Opposition Christian Democrats immediately filed an objection on the grounds that any form of discrimination against private schools *vis-à-vis* state schools was constitutionally inadmissible.

WEST GERMANY
Paul Bendelow discusses two encouraging developments for private education.

The court ruling, which nullifies the amendment, called for yardsticks to provide adequate certainty and predictability in the size of subsidies the independent sector can expect. The extent of this entitlement was not to be left to the discretion of education authorities - an important decision for private schools throughout West Germany, since it virtually guarantees their preservation.

The ruling was welcomed by Bonn's Christian Democratic Education Minister, Frau Dorothee Wilms, as one of the most noteworthy humiliations suffered by Social Democratic education policy in years.

However, the regional education minister in North Rhine-Westphalia, Herr Juergen Girsogen, pointed out that the Constitutional Court had not criticised the Government economy measure as such, but merely the degree of discretion proposed for establishing the size of subsidies.

Undisputed is the fact that grants to the independent sector have increased sharply in recent years to keep pace with rising costs. In Baden-Wuerttemberg, for instance, the subsidy has

risen from around £70m to over £80m in the past two years, resulting in plans announced by the regional government last year for purging down the grant by nearly £5m by 1984.

And despite the court ruling, the independent sector itself seems aware of the need to keep in check its demands on public spending at a time of widespread cuts. Parents of pupils at the 377 private schools in North Rhine-Westphalia have undertaken to meet the costs of teaching materials themselves in the current school year, saving the state about £5m.

The majority of private schools in North Rhine-Westphalia, as in the rest of the country, are Roman Catholic foundations. The body responsible for running them, the Working Group of Catholic Schools, while welcoming the court's decision, has called for independents to 'stand shoulder to shoulder with all schools' in times of strained financial resources, in a concerted effort to hold costs.

The right to establish private schools, specifically guaranteed by the Federal constitution, has been reinforced in North Rhine-Westphalia by the court's decision in favour of their right to continuous, dependable subsidies. In the case of the Witten/Herdecke Private University, the long controversy preceding its inauguration had focused less on questions of financing than on the desirability of extending the independent sector to

higher education.

The only other independent education institution, the University in Eichstätt in Bavaria, not comparable with Herdecke, receives state support and is dependent on private grant donations and is not recognised through its philosophy over and the anthroposophical ideas of Rudolf Steiner.

An economics department is to open next year, with others added later. The restriction of the department to 25 students has been criticised as elitist.

It is a charge which the director, Knut von Oetzel, accepts. The aim, he says, is to encourage excellence in a small group of students, and in social responsibility, and an elite not of economic or social awareness.

For the many in West Germany who feel the influence of the independent sector must be kept in check, the successes of the private sector are encouraging signs. Others, however, see the ruling as a reinforcement of independence, a reflection of the fact that state education and the independent sector are ultimately socially divisive.

In West Germany's current political atmosphere, however, the ruling is seen as a clear mark of

Holy See hears confessions of failure from ministers

EUROPE

John Welshe reports from the Standing Conference of Ministers in Dublin.

Europe's education ministers, meeting in Dublin Castle last week, agreed that, despite important reforms over the past decade, their education systems had largely failed to overcome disadvantages resulting from home background and socio-economic status.

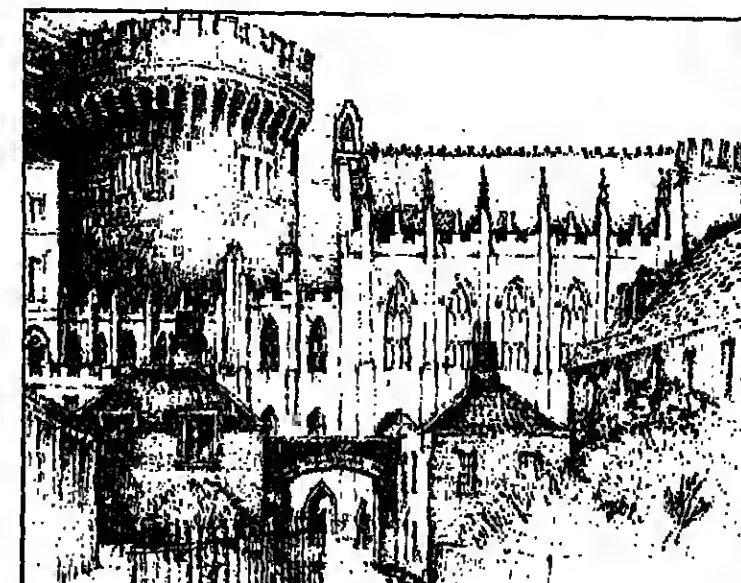
There were some very frank contributions at the meeting which was attended by representatives of 20 Council of Europe member states, Finland and Canada. The Holy See was also represented.

The Standing Conference of Ministers accepted that there was a general feeling of alienation among young people. This might be due to the absence of motivation in schools, the apparent lack of relevance of the curriculum and the prospect of prolonged unemployment.

Professor Frausto da Silva, the Portuguese Minister for Education, spoke for many when he asked why they were so proud of their educational systems 20 years ago but so unhappy with the present situation.

The expansion of knowledge and the tremendous development of the non-formal systems of education besides the formal ones accounted for some of the change, he suggested.

"Children are confronted nowadays with a difficult choice - on one side, the appealing TV and radio programmes and on the other side the school where they are taught boring subjects in a boring way."



Dublin Castle: venue for the ministers' meeting.

He said the problems would become even more acute when their countries were reached by TV programmes produced by other countries for a different cultural background and broadcasted by satellite. It would be a new kind of cultural imperialism.

Although in agreement on the problems facing their education systems, ministers were less sure of concrete solutions. The final documents talked of the need for schools to give adolescents a positive outlook on life and the means to realize their full potential. They suggested that schools should teach pupils to master everyday life which required a knowledge of the

mother tongue and at least one foreign language, numeracy, science, technology, social studies, ethics, cultural activities and sport. Schools should also teach pupils an awareness of present day problems such as management of their environment and consumer practices as well as a critical approach to the media and knowledge of health questions. Pupils should experience democratic life in a practical way at school, they added.

European cooperation on education and the problems of the education of migrants were also discussed at the conference which was presided over by Mrs Gemma Hussey, Ireland's Education Minister.

Frustration at the receiving end

Young people around the world are critical of the educational system and frustrated with the way schools work, suggests an unpublished study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the basis of today's young people towards education and work, John Welshe writes.

It says that while they believe education is important they find the schools' day-to-day operations abusive and boring.

They are troubled by bias shown by teachers towards some students, by the lack of connection they believe exists between what they do in school and what will be expected of them in the outside world.

Because they and their families expect the educational system to prepare them for the world of work, they are frustrated and confused by the absence of what they consider "real work" from the curriculum, and believe that the areas that ought to be most concerned with occupational issues, the guidance and counselling services, are inadequate.

"There is thus little enthusiasm among youths for the educational system, even among those who benefit from it," says the report by the OECD's Centre for Educational Research and Innovation.

The study is in effect a distillation of about 120 reports and documents from 16 member states, including the United States, Britain, Japan and Australia. These cover attitudes, research statistics, policy designs and official statements. Although issued on a restricted basis last year, the draft report has still to be officially published.

Despite complaints - such as the mismatch between educational qualifications and job requirements - young people's perceptions of work are positive. When they gain employment they believe in the work they do, even if their jobs are poorly paid, boring, show little future opportunities, or are insecure.

The report notes that unskilled youths are consistently identified as the priority concern in discussions and policies for unemployed young people. But it gives a warning of the danger of ignoring the needs of middle-class youth, and says there are signs that this group is the most

likely to react badly, and in ways society cannot afford, to unemployment or the frustration of having achieved uselessly high educational levels.

"The persistent phenomena of political terrorism in several countries and the rising level of criminality and drug abuse among these young persons are perhaps warning signs that policy makers should consider carefully when deciding how to design their interventions in the field of youth unemployment and employment."

Turning to work-orienting programmes in schools, it says that the satisfaction, even enthusiasm, of young people towards them is extraordinary.

But it also says many such programmes appear to lack guidance and to be implemented with little preparation.

The "tracking" functions of the programme also appears prominent, working-class youths are prepared for the working-class jobs they would ordinarily be expected to get, and girls are given work experience in traditionally women's jobs.

Some courses are particularly focused on the classroom of school, whilst others explore the more general and theoretical aspects of education. All that just under a calendar year and can lead to the award of a certificate. Most of them can also be counted towards a O.U. degree.

The study packs tackle specific practical issues of concern to teachers and are designed for flexible use by individuals or groups in schools or colleges.

THE COURSES
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Election promise kept with £3,350m budget

SPAIN

After only six months in power the Socialist Government has fulfilled its election promises by drawing up Spain's biggest-ever education budget.

Educational investment will amount to £3,350m in 1983. Together with an emergency lump sum to raise teachers' wages two months ago, this represents a 41 per cent increase over last year. The autonomous Basque and Catalan areas who administer their own education funds are not included in these figures.

A major part of the budget seems to be aimed at keeping teachers happy. State teachers with a 12 per cent rise and for the first time teaching staff in grant aided schools who usually lag behind their state colleagues have been granted comparable salary increases.

The private sector, who a few months ago feared their extinction at the hands of the Socialists, have been generously catered for under the new regime. State subsidies to private schools have been increased by 12 per cent and a pending Bill regulating this financial aid could add another four points to this percentage.

Strongly reflected in the distribution of funds is a pet scheme of Senor Moragas, the education minister, to even out educational privilege in different areas of the country. Statistics monotonously highlight deficiencies in the rural areas, particularly in the south west and large tracts of Andalusia. In these traditionally forgotten provinces children tend to leave school early and academic performance is below national average.

Some £110m has been made available to attract teachers away from urban and industrial zones. The project's main objective is to offer intensive training to 14 and 15-year-old school drop-outs and give them some marketable skills in the shrinking job pool. It will be jointly administered by education authorities and the national employment service.

A further £375m has also been made available to reduce the financial burden on parents of primary age children. Although the parents of state primary school pupils pay practically nothing, state aided schools still charge modest fees averaging £17 a month.

As a result of the new budget, parents' contributions will remain at 1980 levels and compensation will be made to school managements who claim to have difficulty holding down charges in the face of rising costs. The state's school lunch subsidy is also to be increased from 30p per meal to 50p, and a surprisingly large chunk of the budget is allotted to cover school transport.

The budget package also foresees the creation of 36,000 new infant school places - a concession mainly to working mothers.

The universities, apart from salary increases, have been awarded £55m for research projects.

This investment is still well below that of most Common Market countries, but the education minister has promised that next year's budget will be even bigger - a policy which is apparently producing results. Unusually quiet campuses have been remarkably quiet and demonstrations by irate parents are less frequent.

James Connell

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Macro-plan for the microchip

CANADA

Ontario is to spend up to \$5.6m on computers for schools. Lea McLean reports.

advanced machine to follow in a year.

Local authorities may purchase any machine meeting the government specifications of 25 per cent of minimum specifications at 25 per cent of minimum specifications. The plan has been a decision to design and produce a machine in Ontario - the Canadian educational microcomputer, dubbed the Blunk Beaver. Design work began almost two years ago, but the recession delayed production. The first standard processors are now set to appear this summer with a more

Educational programs are being prepared by contractors, a new curriculum guide will be distributed next month, and TV Ontario, the government's educational network, is offering computer familiarization courses.

A controversial part of the plan has been a decision to design and produce a machine in Ontario - the Canadian educational microcomputer, dubbed the Blunk Beaver. Design work began almost two years ago, but the recession delayed production. The first standard processors are now set to appear this summer with a more

Individuals and industry representatives warned that Ontario would be cut off from most of the software

being produced for the market. Existing machines, but the plan was determined to have a machine designed for education, to avoid some of the chaos and patchwork of the current market. Not only do programs for microcomputers not run on a standard machine, those written for one may not run on a machine from the same manufacturer.

Through meetings with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of the Environment, at no extra cost, BASIC, Pascal, and other standard languages, and then in versions specially designed for education by Ontario's University. There will be a screen editor, advanced package, word-processing and work communications.

Caught in the crossfire of broken homes and widespread abduction

UNITED STATES

Peter David on the rapid growth of kidnapping in custodial battles between parents.

American teachers are being asked to become central figures in the battle against one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States - child abduction.

Between 25,000 and 100,000 children are abducted every year, and, in a nation with a million divorces annually, the kidnappers are often estranged partners from broken marriages.

More often than not, the children are being abducted by one parent, and being enlisted in a national effort to find them.

An article in last month's issue of the Journal of the National Association of Elementary School Principals calls on school heads to join the hunt and points out that 95 per cent of the abducted children probably attend school somewhere in the US.

Abducted children who are not enrolled in schools become too conspicuous, the journal says. "Given the number of children abducted every year, therefore... chances are that every principal will at some point in his or her career, have a child in the student population who either will be stolen or already has been."

The role of the school is twofold, the association says. First, increased vigilance can reduce the number of abductions which take place on school premises. And second, a careful policy of surveillance can enable schools to spot children who have already

been abducted but are too frightened to tell the authorities.

Only a minority of kidnappings take place within the schools themselves but when they do the nation's muddy child custody laws can place teachers in impossible legal entanglements. The association cites a typical case in which a divorced father enrolled three children in a North Dakota elementary school after showing the principal his custody papers.

One day, the mother turned up at the school, accompanied by a deputy sheriff and with a court order signed in a nearby town rescinding the father's custody. "I can't let those children go," the principal told the sheriff.

"Yes you can, and you had better," the deputy replied. By the time the father could get an order restoring his custody the children had been moved to New Jersey.

Some schools, the association reports, have become so alarmed by the state of abductions that they have devised special "kidnap alert" procedures to be followed when the chil-

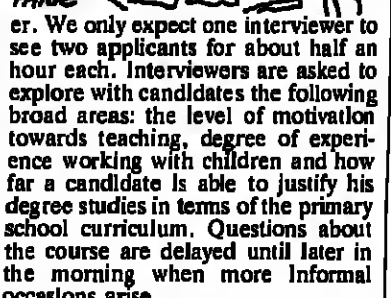
dren of divorced parents are enrolled in school. The plan is to have a motion picture made of each child, and to have a list of the children's names and descriptions made available to all teachers. When a child is seen in a suspicious place, the teacher is to call the police immediately.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

RON ESKDALE

The head teachers from our six schools (three middle and three first schools) agreed to help both in the formal interviewing and in organizing a series of teaching tasks for applicants during their time in school. We warned applicants in general terms what they were likely to meet during their day in Portsmouth, but only hinted at the possibility of school-

Formal interviews then take place during the remainder of the morning. These are followed by a site tour in two small groups during which the course philosophy and structure and his tasks to be undertaken in the school are outlined. Another opportunity for informal discussion occurs at lunch in a local pub.



S Eskdale is PGCE award tutor at Portsmouth Polytechnic.

FRANK NEEDLER

teacher: "That's not right, is it, sir?"
 "Anyone who reads this, Rymond, understands that in Brittain, there are so many herring gulls, that they are even more common than the common gull."
 "Well sir, they should have called the herring gull, the common gull, then."
 "Surely, Raymond, o bird'a none

The National Child Development Study, the project which follows the development of every child born in Britain during one week in 1958, claims this week to have made the fairest comparison yet between the exam performances of English comprehensives and selective schools. It finds that few schools in 1974 had truly comprehensive intakes covering the full social and ability range, Bob Doe reports.

The differences in intake allowed for included mathematics, reading and general ability test scores at 11; social class, and teachers' ratings of parents' interest in education. The report concludes that factors other than those mentioned above are

modem + comprehensive	13	14	39
modem + combined	18	17	46
comprehensive	14	15	40
combined	16	12	32

KEY

GRAMMAR

SECONDARY MODERN

COMPREHENSIVE

TRANSITIONAL

lowest middle highest

Range of maths scores at age 11 divided into fifth

The results of selecting a few for grammar school education while the majority apparently underachieved in secondary moderns seemed to roughly equal the average attainment in the comprehensives. But this is not necessarily the same as saying non-selective schools are as good as—or no better than—selective ones; it is simply that the selective "system" that existed in 1974, in which apparently nearly a third were in grammar schools and two thirds in secondary moderns, performed no better or worse on average than the comprehensive schools that existed then. Comprehensive with a broader social and ability range than those existing in 1974 might perform quite differently.

Age Group	Percentage
18-24	57%
25-34	27%
35-44	26%
45-54	30%

Figure 2. Social class of intake at eleven: percentage fathers in white collar jobs.

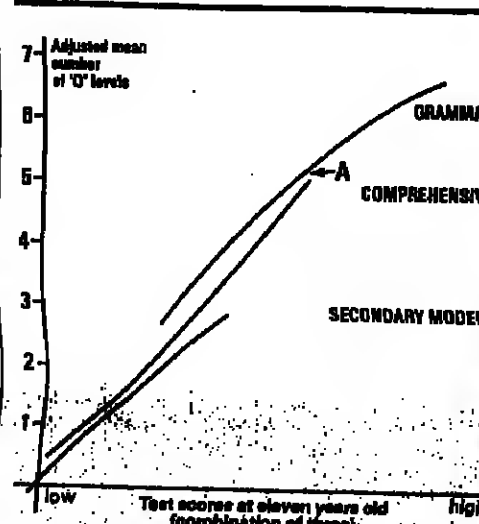


Figure 3. Test scores of pupils at 11 and their subsequent performance at O level (number of O level grades A to C or CSE grade ones): the small difference between the top scoring comprehensive pupils and the grammar school pupils with similar test scores (gap at A) is not statistically conclusive.

Examination Results in selective and non-selective schools by Jane Steedman, published by the National Children's Bureau this week. The earlier report was Progress in Secondary

grammatical schools and comprehensives according to social class; middle class pupils (I and II) make substantially less prog-

TED GOODRICH

pregnant during an 18-week period starting 11 weeks before the expected date of confinement, or if you are sick outside the BEC even during a school holiday (my italics). The



deep suspicion. It is
while to have your union represent
ive present before another.

...factors, reading and general ability test scores at 11, social class, and teachers' ratings of parents' interest in education. The report concludes that factors other than these which were connected

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NICK BAKER

1. Read carefully to find if you are actually eligible for sick pay. For instance, you do not qualify if you are pregnant during an 18-week period starting 11 weeks before the expected date of confinement, or if you are sick outside the REC even during a school holiday (my italics). These are very sensible precautions. No headmaster

...should be...
...suspicion. It may be...
...while to have your union represent...
...present before answering...
...of the...

The differences in intake allowed for included mathematics, reading and general ability test scores at 11, social class, and teachers' ratings of parents' interest in education. The report concludes that

Table 1: Average test scores of school intakes at 11

	MATHS (out of 40)	READING (out of 38)	GENERAL ABILITY (out of 80)
grammar	29	22	60
secondary			
modern	13	14	39
grammar +			
modern	18	17	46
combined			
comprehensive	14	15	40
analytical	16	18	42

Examination Results in selective and non-selective schools by Jane Steedman, published by the National Children's Bureau this week. The earlier report was *Progress in Secondary Schools*, published by the NCB in 1980.

SECONDARY ENGLISH

ERKSBIERE
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ARTS

Nostalgia

Blackout - One Evacuee in Thousands.
Epping Youth Theatre.
John, Paul, George, Ringa... and Bert.
Elstree Youth Theatre.
Sizing Up.
Lyric Youth Theatre, Hammer-smith.

Nostalgia rules the Broadway and West End stage and has done so for a good few years; now it has got to the youth theatres, distracting them from the concerns of the present with what some might see as an ostrich-like preoccupation with the past. Which is not to say that Epping Youth Theatre would have been better off with an improvised drama about the Falklands conflict, only that it seems odd for them to have gone to all the trouble of re-creating the atmosphere of the last war for their production *Blackout - One Evacuee in Thousands*. However, that is what they did, and very thoroughly too. Mark Wheeler's musical, originally written with and for members of the Stantonbury Youth Theatre, Milton Keynes had scenes set in air-raid shelters, a suitably golden-voiced radio announcer filling in background information and a chorus of bewildered evacuees, each with a luggage label tied to her left leg. The evocation of the period was so good, I spent the first act waiting for Vera Lynn's entrance.

Ultimately more interesting than the musical's sentimental tale, however, were the experiences of four real-life evacuees now living in Epping. Interpolated into the original script, they were vivid, honest and as characteristic of their period as taped windows and the drone of distant bombers. The four evacuees, each with a luggage label tied to her left leg, were well-played music, they would have made a wonderful documentary drama on their own.

Also with one eye over their



A scene from Lyric Youth Theatre's Sizing Up.

shoulders, Elstree Youth Theatre revived much happier memories in their production of Willy Russell's musical *John, Paul, George, Ringa... and Bert*. Collaring the assistance of Paul McCartney no less, they came up with a graphic re-creation of the sixties - the breathless excitement, the faded trousers, pot, Profumo, the main chance and the mini-skirt - and almost succeeded in convincing those of us who were there that things could be so again.

Formed only a year ago, the group pulled off a considerable coup in securing not just the amateur premiere of the show, but also the willing cooperation of McCartney (who happened to be working at a nearby film studio), the Corporation of Liverpool and comedian Mel Smith, their patron. Upstaging everyone else, Douglas Stevenson sang the Lennon and McCartney songs in the first half with the style and easy assurance of a pre-rock 'n' roll crooner, but it was disconcerting to hear the rest of the company talk about the fat boy Beatles. We survivors who had David, Jacqui and never dropped his voice like that, when he played his second.

Bang up to date in Hammersmith, where nostalgia is a dirty word, the Lyric Youth Theatre, only two years old themselves, took up the present

Creative music-making

KEMSA Festival Day
Kent Music School, Maidstone, May 1.

Each year the Kent Music School Association (KEMSA) runs a Festival Day devoted to a particular aspect of music-making, offering a concentrated period of study for young people under the supervision and tuition of professional musicians, and perhaps also kick-starting a new activity in the school's already packed timetable. This year, with South-East Arts support, it was creative music-making, under the guidance of Peter Wiegold's contemporary music group, Gemini. Gemini has been bridging the gap between performance, workshop and education for some five years now and has developed a baroque of techniques for inspiring enthusiasm, inventiveness and enjoyment in young people.

In the morning a group of 6- to 12-year-olds who had already worked with Gemini in their schools, came back for more. "Games" is not quite the right word for the jangling and singing routines of Gemini's opening session: it implies the right degree of pleasure, but does little justice to the seriousness of the children's work. Soon the children were sending tune fragments, compatible in pitch and rhythm, chasing each other round the room, overlapping in canon, each idea fading away as the next overtook it.

After a discussion of the distinction between metre, pulse and rhythm, the children were encouraged to investigate the raw material of music-making. A simple diagram of a circle with intense melody and rhythmic activity in the centre and silence beyond the circumference, split into rhythmically differentiated segments - enabled first Peter Wiegold and then the children to control the sounds made in flute and bass clarinet by Kathryn Lukin

and Edward Pillingers. The children then used their own instruments, first in variations of this canon, and then, in small groups and disciplines, to produce complex and changing textures.

The afternoon was given over to pieces written by older children. Had attended a weekend composition course at KMS six weeks earlier. Here Gemini had time only for brief comments and advice - they practised and encouraged - as individual works.

Although both composition and performance were generally well-planned, the approach was surprisingly conventional. This was as Edward Pillingers pointed out: "I have something to do with the children are introduced to a taught their instruments. Even excellent jazz groups displayed a mixture of confusion and writing."

Wiegold's advice often came down to increasing the young composers' understanding of structure, advice that would apply equally to all the arts. The concepts of "ringing", creating a unity by some simple factor; of role-playing; of the importance of individual elements; of long-term planning, will be curiously useful.

Gemini's work is at heart a creative response: listening, understanding, transforming. It is not a simple matter of the child (or, for that matter, the adult) rather than concentrating on a single idea. It's about exploration and adaptation. The astonishing opening potential of their instruments was eloquently demonstrated for the children in pieces of solo pieces by G. Jolley, Fernyough and Wiegold.

Watershed

Radio Play Competition
Watershed, Bristol.

"That's a funny thing to say to a simple girl like me," said a young girl, as she was travelling to school. She was caught up by a frog. A deceptively simple performance, listeners might be following a recording by Watershed Media Centre.

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Next week
Hugh David on the current state of morale at the Educational Publishers' Council; Anne Corbett on present book-selling trends in France; Maurice Pester on two new books about Thatcher.

BOOKS

Money, money, money

Maurice Peston on our performance and prospects

Britain Can Work. By Ian Gilmour. Martin Robertson £8.95.
Renewal. Edited by Gerald Kaufman. Penguin £2.50.
Contemporary Problems of Economic Policy. By R C O Matthews and J R Sargent. Methuen £3.95.
Herd Times. By Bob Sutcliffe. Pluto Press £2.50.
Britain's Economic Future. By Christopher Hawkins. Wheatsheaf £4.95.
The Coming Boom. By Herman Kahn. Hutchinson £7.95.

These books cover a wide range of topics, and it is impossible to deal with all of them adequately in one review. The shadow cabinet essays in particular, include two (by Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley) which are quite fascinating, and which I hope to return to on a later occasion. Here I shall concentrate on economic matters.

We are on the verge of an election in which both economic performance and economic prospects will play a vital role. What light, if any, is thrown on all that by these books?

Starting with Ian Gilmour's, it is in the mainstream of Keynesian position, and shows pretty thoroughly that there is nothing on that side of the economic debate which is necessarily left-wing. (Perhaps I should add that there are plenty of variants of monetarism which are compatible with a left political stance.)

His account of macroeconomic theory and policy is remarkably clear and interesting. I do not know a better or fuller exposition of the

subject at the non-technical level. (It is astonishing how much he has read.) Apart from its general interest, it is strongly recommended to students who want and need a welcome break from the dry textbook exposition of people like myself. It leads to the conclusion that the way the economy works is a good deal less peculiar than some people believe. More to the point, within economics itself there is no mystery about devising sensible policies, by which I mean ones superior to those pursued in the past four years. The idea that we are doing the best we can is simply nonsense. My own view is that it is so even given the government's ideological commitments and self-imposed political constraints. Even greater economic gains are possible, however, within a different policy framework.

This is reinforced by *Contemporary Problems of Economic Policy* which brings together the essays written by the Clarendon Group which have been published earlier in the Midland Bank Review. Their analytical foundation is Keynesian in a contemporary and rather sophisticated sense. (Perhaps a better way of putting this is to say that it is in the UK Keynesian style as opposed to that currently associated with one or two of the better known English Keynesians.) In policy terms they show very clearly how fiscal expansion of a carefully controlled kind is an appropriate monetary control and with an incomes policy would lead to a considerable improvement in our economic circumstances. The editors' introduction, surveying the experience of the past half a dozen years, is especially to be recommended.

This leads me to Eric Varley's

essay in the Kaufman volume which is a model of intelligent and progressive analysis. He sees the need for an up to date approach to the position of the worker in the factory or office which will give him more responsibility and dignity. This is not necessarily incompatible with enhanced productivity, especially if the quality of working life is itself regarded as part of the correct definition of output. Where Eric Varley runs into difficulty is in the role of the Trade Union movement. Of course, the work that trade unions do in protecting employees from the arbitrary and offensive behaviour of employers is never refuted in the Kaufman volume. I tend to disagree with him in two ways. First, there is no technical need for collapse; our problems are solvable within the context of the mixed economy. Keynesianism may be buried, but it is not yet dead. But, second, I am more pessimistic than he is. I do not believe we shall adopt sensible policies, and, therefore, Britain is much closer to disaster than is commonly realized.

Christopher Hawkins, writing from a Conservative point of view, is both as pessimistic and as optimistic as I am. He thinks we are in a mess and "that time is running out for the British economy". While I disagree with his approach to the economy as a whole, his policy suggestions are certainly worth taking seriously. He thinks that a lot of our trouble can be placed at the door of the tax system, on the one hand, and the real cost of finance for industry, on the other. While he exaggerates the benefits that would result from reforms in these areas (and in housing), he makes a good case for them.

Perhaps, this is inevitable. Certainly, just as the right wing reject the moderate range of consensus so do the left. They believe in the need for much more root and branch change. That is the view of Bob Sutcliffe in his excellent little book. He gives an extremely clear account of what has happened, and sees the importance of the interrelation between the political system and the economic. Interestingly enough, he also says "capitalism is heading neither straight towards the resolution of its crisis on the terms of the bourgeoisie, nor towards any final collapse". Apart from avoiding Marxist rhetoric, I tend to disagree with him in two ways. First, there is no technical need for collapse; our problems are solvable within the context of the mixed economy. Keynesianism may be buried, but it is not yet dead. But, second, I am more pessimistic than he is. I do not believe we shall adopt sensible policies, and, therefore, Britain is much closer to disaster than is commonly realized.

Hotman Kahn's book is written in his usual apocalyptic style. It has a historical and international sweep which is the envy of us more mundane social scientists. But, equally, he has the gift of making platitudes and trite phrases appear to be profound. Consider the following two quotations: "economic forces are gradually forcing a solution to the long-term threat of ever-rising petroleum prices. Their impact is already pronounced and could become overwhelming well before 1990. The major caveat is the possibility of a self-defeating prophecy", and "the computer is very effective when communicating well-understood official information and theories, but no good for furnishing metaphors and synergisms". For what it is worth, I must add that Kahn does prophesy a new US boom (and, therefore, presumably, world) for the rest of the century, although not as powerful as the one that ended from 1945 to 1970. I would like to believe he is right, but if he is mistaken it is not economics that will take it so not economics.

Rhetoric and reality

Preparation for Crisis: adult education 1945-80. By D Ben Ross. G W & A Hoskott.

This book identifies systematically why there is so much more rhetoric than reality about adult education. Unfortunately, despite its careful scholarship, it is unlikely to shift the balance towards practice. *Preparation for Crisis* may well be a fine description of years 1945-80. But what crisis? Whatever it is, it is more in the mind of the author than the sense conveyed to the reader. The evidence is all there. The last chapter on Conclusions and Implications for Policy fires off a series of comprehensive prescriptions: the concept of continuing education; adult leisure; basic skills education; adult schools for adults; opportunities for women; the role of the Workers' Educational Association and University Extension Department; opportunities for ethnic minorities; adult education and the Welsh language; trade union education; higher education; new target groups (the unemployed); adult continuing education.

The book is written in a style that is both clear and readable. It is a good book for anyone who is interested in adult education. It is a good book for anyone who is interested in the history of adult education. It is a good book for anyone who is interested in the future of adult education.



Well-dressed paddlers, with buckets, spades, toy yacht and shrimping net, Robert Slingsby, 1885.

Picture passage

A Hundred Years Ago Britain in the 1880s in Words and Photographs. By Colin Ford and Brian Harrison. Allen Lane £25.00. 0 7139 0919 6. Penguin £10.00. 0 14 00 6711 6.

Colin Ford, keeper of the new National Museum of Photography, and Brian Harrison, modern history tutor at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, have produced this pictorial history of Britain in the 1880s. The book has been discovered by a number of people who are interested in the history of the 1880s. The book is a good book for anyone who is interested in the history of the 1880s. It is a good book for anyone who is interested in the future of the 1880s.

THE GUARDIAN GUIDE TO THE ECONOMY VOLUME 2

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Following the enormous success of the first *Guardian Guide to the Economy*, the authors have produced a second volume, discussing six further topics that explain, in simple language, the theoretical background to the issues that make the headlines. Frances Cairncross looks at monetarism, why pay rates differ and the effects of incomes policies, unemployment and the future of work, the rise in protectionism and its effects on world trade, how the Third World is coping with recession, and the battle over public expenditure between central and local government. Phil Keeley, Head of Economics at Henbury School, Bristol, and 'A'-level examiner, again provides worksheets for each chapter, with a new, improved layout following suggestions from teachers and lecturers.

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Glasgow: The Making of a City. By Andrew Gibb. Croom Helm £12.95. 0 7099 0161 5. British Regional Development Since World War I. By Christopher Law. Methuen University Paperbacks £4.95. 0 416 32310 3. Planning in the Soviet Union. By Judith Pallot and Dennis J B Shaw. Croom Helm £16.95. 0 85664 571 0. City, Class and Capital. Edited by Michael Harloe and Elizabeth Lebas. Edward Arnold £6.95. 0 7131 6346 1. Cities, Poverty and Development. By Alan Gilbert and Josef Gugler. Oxford University Press £15.00. 0 19 874083 2. Rural Industrial Development. By Vincent Austin. Cassell £5.95. 0 304 307319. Rural Settlement in an Urban World. By Michael Dunce. Croom Helm £12.95. 0 7099 0651 X. Rural Settlement and Land Use. By Michael Chisholm. Hutchinson £3.25. 0 09 139771 5.

In the opening sequence of the recent BBC2 series on Glasgow, social work students were seen making their initial exploration of the city's East End. "My name's Anne. I'm a geographer here," explained their pilot. His new book is an excellent study in historical geography, as up to date as the TV series. He attributes the disaster that has befallen

the industrial Glasgow largely to the very dangerous concentration on heavy industry for many years despite the warning signals from the experience of the thirties, and he notes "the failure of the service sector to compensate by expansion for job losses in the manufacturing sector". Andrew Gibb has a very significant further comment, echoed by recent studies in Birmingham and inner London: "Perhaps more serious in its consequences was the death of hundreds of small enterprises whose low levels of capital and low overheads, in brick backyard or railway viaduct premises destroyed by demolition, denied them the possibility of relocation."

The decline of traditional industrial regions is not a recent phenomenon, and government policy since the First World War has sought to compensate for this decline in what were once, correctly, called the distressed areas and have had many other euphemisms applied to them since. We remain two nations and are bound to ask whether, in a market economy, the carrots and sticks of regional policy can be effective. Would we have been even worse off without them? Christopher Law's original and detailed account of the development of regional policy provides the background for our answers to this question. In spite of inducements to locate themselves in the regions where they were most desperately needed

City worlds

By Colin Ward

To provide employment, the new light industries of the eighties, like those of the thirties, have chosen to locate themselves in surroundings close to the road network and close too to the locations of research establishments which have automatically opted for the south.

There was a time during the depression of the thirties when people who despaired of the lack of planning in Western capitalist nations were convinced that "Moscow has a plan". Two British geographers, looking at Soviet planning many decades later, have produced a clear and fact-packed study based on their own familiarity with the Soviet Union and with its own geographical and economic literature. They try to avoid both propagandist claims and the automatic Western denigration of the Soviet economy, and they conclude that, "Although Soviet industry has been centrally planned and the existing distributional system is a product of decisions made in the bureaucracy, it is not correct to think of changes in the distribution of industry evolving within the framework of some master plan. Decisions about industrial location seem to have been taken for a variety of different reasons at different times. To search for a single all-encompassing explanation for the existing distributional pattern of Soviet industry is most likely to search in vain."

But the kind of simplistic analysis that these authors find inappropriate to the discussion of planning in the Soviet economy is all too often evident in Western Marxist studies of capitalist societies. The volume *City, Class and Capital*, subtitled "New developments in the political economy of cities and regions" has ten essays of varying density, some of them of devastating obscenity. The best are very good, including Michael Harloe's paper on "the re-commodification of housing", a progress report on his current international comparison of housing policies in several countries, and R E Pahl's fascinating paper on "Employment, work and the domestic division of labour", about the way families make do and get by in an urban fringe area of high unemployment.

The volume by Gilbert and Gugler is one of several recent general accounts of the pell-mell urbanization of third world countries. It draws upon the vast recent literature from several non-Western disciplines, with the aim of producing a comprehensive survey with some broad general conclusions. Key issues which are the subject of current academic controversy - for example the informal economy and its relationship with the regular economy, and the development of appropriate policies towards the squatter settlements on the fringe of every third world city - are judiciously

appraised, with a wealth of references.

In spite of the staggering change in population distribution in the developing countries, rural settlements are still far more numerous than urban ones, and in much of the world their total population still exceeds that of town and cities. The problems of urbanization are precisely because millions of these rural dwellers make the transition to cities. They move to find a better life for themselves and their children. It is reasonable to assume that the flow would be reduced if rural opportunities could be brought to rural areas.

This is the point of Vincent Austin's book, which is intended as a training and reference manual for people concerned with rural development. It is a very useful book, setting out a stimulating development issues. The book by Michael Dunce examines the patterns and the problems of rural settlements, with a world perspective. His spatial analysis covers a period to the pioneering book by professor Chisholm which, after many reprints is now reissued in a revised version of this study of rural settlement patterns which he serves with the status of a classic since it first appeared over 20 years ago.

In the dark forest

Neil Philip on picture book versions of folk and fairy tales

The Trial of the Animals. Retold by Virgilio S. Almarino. Illustrated by Alberto E. Gemos. Methuen £5.50. 0 416 27570 2. *The King's Apple Tree.* Retold and illustrated by Sophia Zarembocka. Methuen £5.50. 0 416 23250 7. *Molly Whuppie.* Retold by Walter de la Mare. Illustrated by Errol Le Cain. Faber and Faber £4.95. 0 571 11942 5.

The Cock, the Mouse and the Little Red Hen. Retold and illustrated by Lorinda Bryan Cauley. Pepper Press £3.95. 0 237 45667 2. *Mr Fox.* Retold and illustrated by Gavin Bishop. Oxford University Press £4.50. 0 19 559089 3.

Jack and the Magic Stove. Retold by Elisabeth Beresford. Illustrated by Rita van Bilsen. Hutchinson £4.50. 0 09 150530 5. *The Ugly Duckling.* By Hans Andersen. Illustrated by Monika Laimgruber. Hamish Hamilton £4.75. 0 241 10836 5.

Father Knows Best. By Hans Andersen. Illustrated by Ulf Lofgren. Hodder and Stoughton £3.95. 0 340 28791 6.

Big Claus and Little Claus. By Hans Andersen. Illustrated by Ulf Lofgren. Hodder and Stoughton £3.95. 0 340 28791 6.

So many picture book versions of folk and fairy tales are published that one can afford to be choosy. It is possible to demand a strong story, skilfully told, and eloquent pictures, boldly and slyly related to the text they accompany. A book such as *The Trial of the Animals* in Methuen's Folk Tales from Around the World series, with its spurious air of authenticity and exotic appeal, cannot disguise the tedium of its moral cumulative narrative about an animal court, or the weakness of its many crayoned pictures. It has only to be measured against Errol Le Cain's *Molly Whuppie*: sumptuous, stylized images responding with clarity and imagination to the challenge of Walter de la Mare's firm, delicate prose. Just look at Le Cain's magnificent picture of Molly deftly swapping over the necklaces of strew and gold around the necks of her sleeping sisters and the giant's snoring daughters, while the giant's shadow looms threatening on the stairs, to see how the intelligent illustrator can extend the text - de la Mare doesn't describe the giant's daughters - convey the atmosphere which the writer's economy implies but does not make plain, and help clarify a difficult point in the story. The picture displays, too, the individual wit and invention of the artist: in this case the shape of the bed posts echoes the plaits of the sleeping girls.

newly 30 years ago. Now quickly becomes and remains a villain, articulating the theory of assimilation of the grammar school in the public school. The text in confidence and authority a century advances, and the picture the arching unimaginedness of Crowther Report are exceptional and convincing. "Therefore, as it seems to me, argument comes badly off the Expansion, modernization, democratization lead to the sixth form college, has precisely that kind of appropriateness to the social situation that America had in its day. The tone might be reasonable (if sometimes over-commentary into repetitive propaganda). It is misleading to say that sixth form colleges were when a disproportionate number of the evidence seems to be from one college in the country, as the authors say, but in any discussion of the sixth form put it no higher, the sixth form of the sixth form college is not those very values of education which the book is rightly concerned to attack. Even so, the blurring of all distinctions between the sixth form and the sixth form college is made for the book's dramatic reference to the dramatic pattern imposed by the sixth form. The argument is rigorous - as in the over the main of the university. When two authors write together they surely are to be expected to explain to the reader (or, as they would have it, public) the "my of the book" and 79? We certainly are writing to Britain's education, even if the canvas is too broad. Too many subjects are sacrificed to the single message to the need for apparent unity. It does not make much sense to attribute now to Conservative conservatives a belief in "mainly elite" (p.226). Mr Philip to that is Mr Philip.

Top of the class

Mathematics for Gifted Pupils. By Anita Straker. Longman Resources Unit. £2.95. 0 582 38888 0.

The suggestion in this, the first product of the Schools Council's Programme 4, that while there may be as many as 3 per cent of any age group of children possessing exceptional mathematical ability, yet only 4 per cent of all schools make any special provision for such children, should sound many alarm bells. Programme 4 has been devised to consider "the individualization of teaching and learning", with its activities having as a "unifying theme" the curriculum needs of pupils who are in some way exceptional.

Clearly there are many facets to this belatedly recognized problem. There is primarily the identification of those pupils of mathematical potential, and this is associated with considerations of whether this potential is linked to corresponding



Hansel and Gretel being misled by the witch. Yet another Grimm adaptation, this time with illustrations by Svend Otto S accompanying Anthea Bell's translation. (Felmham Books £3.95).

levels in other subjects. Then how should teaching of these children be organized? Should they be with their contemporaries in class, or with older age groups? Will setting or streaming within a single school suffice, or is there merit in concentrating selected children in an area?

The concept of selection immediately arouses political emotions. On the one hand, it can be argued that talented youngsters are chosen to attend specialist schools in, say, music or drama or ballet. Then why not make an equivalent provision for mathematical high fliers? To which the comprehensiveists will retort: Why? and mutter about privilege.

But whatever the mode of attendance, such major issues as the provision of teaching resources, the devising of appropriate curricula, the presentation of material, the development of challenges to meet and stretch the burgeoning mind, and the evaluation of progress all de-

BOOKS

Right answers

Maths Works A. Pupil's book £1.95. Tryouts A 65p. Teacher's book £3.25.

Maths Works B. Pupil's book £1.95. Tryouts B 65p. Teacher's book £3.50.

By Michael Holt and Andrew Rothery. Longman.

This material consists of three units - Maths Works A and B are the first two - which together make up a self-contained introductory course for pupils in the first three years of secondary education. They attempt to teach the essential mathematical techniques of basic arithmetic, mensuration, geometry and graphical representation with an emphasis on the "usefulness" of mathematics. Each of the three units is comprised of three separate books, a pupil's textbook, a pupil's consumable workbook and a teacher's book.

The teacher's books contain a page of background information for teachers briefly explaining the philosophy behind the scheme, its broad aims, how and why the work is graded and an explanation of the symbols used to refer the pupil to the pupil's workbook. This is followed by a simple schematic representation of the course content and answers to the exercises set in the pupil's text-book. The authors have accompanied specific sets of answers with brief explanations and suggestions where they thought it necessary.

The pupils' consumable workbooks, called "Tryouts", are slightly larger than the average exercise book. They are clear, uncluttered and offer the pupil consolidation exercises based upon the textbook. At various points in the pupils' text he will encounter a symbol which refers him to a particular point in the workbook. On completion of the consolidation exercise in the work-

book he is then directed back to the work in the textbook.

The 96-page textbooks are printed in black and red. From the general layout it is obvious that a lot of thought has been given to the thorough problem of presentation. The two colour print, which also incorporates shades of black and red, is restful on the eye and yet very effective. It does not get in the way of what the page is attempting to put over as happens in many cases where multi-colour prints are used. Diagrams are clear, simple and used only where they illustrate the teaching points involved on that page. In the main, each of the mathematics topics being considered is broken down into small units usually contained within two or occasionally three pages. Each unit also contains six revision exercises evenly spaced throughout the book.

This approach to teaching mathematics is refreshing. The texts have gone a long way towards overcoming the old problem of presenting secondary pupils with simple mathematics in a form which is acceptable without being "babyish". Deviating from the usual format of chapters of work on particular topics could lead to accusations that the texts are "bitty", but the authors avoid the usual rapid progression from the simple to the complex and limit the possible boredom felt by many pupils who have worked the same topic for three or four weeks.

If I had to fault the text it would be to suggest that perhaps there should be more "Tryouts" available as additional material, but I suggest that teachers prepare additional support materials in suit their own pupils. I recommend these materials strongly, but they will have to overcome teachers' traditional attitudes especially when the use of a single textbook is easier.

Peter Connah

Eleanor Farjeon Award

The winner of the 1983 Eleanor Farjeon Award is Jean Russell, best remembered as the joint editor of *Books for Your Children*. As children's librarian, broadcaster and lecturer she did much to promote interest in children's books. Sadly, Jean, a chronic asthma sufferer, died in January and the £500 cheque will be presented on May 24 to the Jean Russell Gift, a trust fund which awards books to asthmatic children.

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MACDONALD EDUCATIONAL

Madame

Darling Madame. By Gillian

You can have one guess about the subject matter - and you would be wrong. The "Madame" was Sarah Grand, a best-selling writer, promoting women's rights at the turn of the century. Although burnt with another name and acquiring another through an unsatisfying marriage, she dumped both these pasts, intent upon taking charge of her own life and helping other women to remodel theirs. To do this, she wrote and lectured.

Credited with creating the expression "The New Woman", her subject matter was really always the same: the position of women related to marriage, the vote, syphilis, education, dress and choice. In this biography, Gillian Kersley lightly works over the slightly repetitive plots of her books, preferring the paradoxes to Sarah's life, which perhaps tends to log the more humbly complicated preoccupations of movements. One of these was Sarah's belief in the sanctity of marriage, but with her own special twist: it should be a relationship, designed to eliminate passion and free the participants for service in the community.

This culminated in her retirement to Bath, where she was the Mistress. But, with a twist of fate, she also became the recipient of a terrible passion. The giver was Gladys Singers-Bigger, a spinster, eager to become a sexual virgin and slave to someone who could give her life meaning.

It is difficult to know which best reveals the stunning reduction that female life once was: Sarah's championing of equal rights or Gladys's refuge in passion, service and annihilation. The suspicion is that these are mirror images of the solutions women then found to channel their untapped resources.

The major part of this biography is Gladys's edited diaries, which are gripping, stirring and inherently deeply sad. Thus, through the medium of Gillian Kersley, the recent past comes close and reveals a social history that is, and doubtless many others, never met while reading school history books.

Mark Featherstone-Witty



Taconite is a steel-grey stone whose iron-bearing qualities first attracted the attention of prospectors in 1870. In this illustration from *The Engineer* by C. Furness and Joe Mc Carthy (Time-Life Books £7.95), the earliest pioneers sit at the head of their first ironstone mine. As with so many books in this series, this will make a seductive way into the subject for middle school pupils.

Policy decisions

Educational Policy: Making an Analysis. By D A Howell and Roger Brown. Studies in Education (New Series) 12. University of London Institute of Education, Heinemann £4.50. 0 85473 130 X.

How and why educational policies develop and change should be of central concern to both practitioners and academics. In recent years this problem has assumed an even greater significance as new educational issues arise, yet in comparison with other areas of educational research, the study of educational policy-making remains somewhat neglected. This book is therefore to be welcomed. The authors' intention is to apply a coherent analysis to the dynamics of educational policy-making which will be pertinent for administrators as well as academics. To achieve this they employ political systems analysis and in the foreword to the book David Easton, one of the main exponents of this form of analysis, gives backing to their approach. The two case studies used to exemplify the analysis are ILEA's reorganization of its non-vocational further education services

and the introduction of the SED degree at the University of London. The analysis depicts ILEA as universities as "para-political" systems, which produce outputs and engage in interaction with the other sub-systems and the "parent system". In the case of ILEA, the authors point to the lack of policy as a series of interconnected activities. The system must adapt itself to the demands and changes in the support it derives from its environment. Howell and Brown conclude that effective decision-making should be responsive to the views of other groups and exert positive leadership in reconciling and synthesizing different demands.

Within its stated compass this book gives a clear and well argued example of the way in which a theory can be applied in understanding actual instances of policy making; certainly it provides for administrators and students a ready approach to the whole process. But the problem remains that the rigorous application of a framework can lead to an over-determinist analysis which obscures reality.

Tim Whitaker

Appropriate engine

The Sixth An Essay in Education and Democracy. By William Reid and Jane Kilby. The Folio Press. £5.75. 0 085273 29 X.

"The sixth form" has, for English and Welsh curricula (but not, of course, for the Scots), a particular resonance. It combines all that is desirable in terms of conventional academic excellence with a meretricious version of equality. The comprehensive reforms of the last two decades - like the Education Acts of 1902 and 1944 - left it relatively untouched. For many parents and teachers (less certainly for the pupils) it epitomizes objectives and achievements.

This is the point of Vincent Austin's book, which is intended as a training and reference manual for people concerned with small-scale efforts are still too rare in this country. The story is a relatively familiar one, now given some new (and sometimes alarmingly vivid) colour. The sixth form is portrayed as an invention of the nineteenth century (which it was) and especially of Dr Arnold (which is more open to dispute). It was, without being "democratic" in any of the senses with which the authors play, an entirely appropriate engine for moving Britain from being a disorganized agricultural society into its mission as a centralized bureaucratic state.

There is more in this assertion than of demonstration, and one of the weaknesses of the book is that it fails to give any sense either of the considerable varieties within the public school tradition (or much more important) of the developments across time. This weakness reflects an over-dependence upon a relatively small number of texts, misleading to suggest that most, or even many, public schools could have survived on their endowments alone.

The reader's sense of unease may grow as the twentieth century grows. Here, unfortunately, the orthodox view of Morant and his fellow commentators is described as though Olive Banks (not cited) had not raised such effective doubts.

Harry

RESOURCES

Balance and values

M J Clark reviews geography material, and considers criteria

Geoffie
Information service for geography teachers. Annual subscription (3 issues) £10
Mary Glasgow Publications Ltd, 140 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4BN

It is perhaps a coincidence that *Geoffie* should have been launched at the same time as the UK Information Technology investment programme. It is certainly a paradox that both ventures should emerge at the end of a decade of increasing educational emphasis on "values in geography". As a result of the national impetus now given to the development and application of information systems, it seems likely that the debate on the role of science in geography will be renewed and sharpened, and the future shape and prospects of a publication like *Geoffie* could hinge on the outcome.

Each of the three annual issues of *Geoffie* comprises six 4-page information modules compiled in a standard ring binder. A module

deals with a single topic such as "The newly industrialising countries", "The United Kingdom steel industry", "India: progress in the 1980s" or "Biomass - high energy plants as a source of liquid fuel".

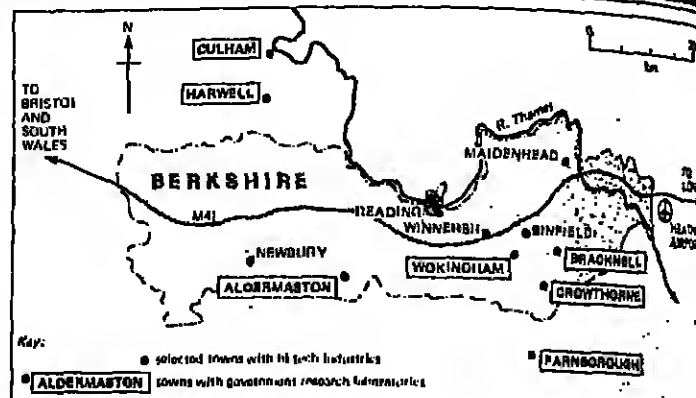
The four pages devoted to each topic provide an introductory background followed by a substantive treatment in the form of descriptive text, maps and copious tables. This information is gleaned by monitoring about 20 newspapers, periodicals and bulletins, and is thus based on data which are in many cases only six to twelve months in arrears.

The emphasis throughout is clearly on information, so that the written style is compressed and ostensibly impartial. As is appropriate to this approach, comment is limited and judgement severely rationed, but there is still an exercise of preference in terms of what is included.

The content is claimed to be "determined in consultation with regular subscribers", though this policy is both vague (since we are still in the first year of issue, how can any subscriber be deemed "regular"?)

and a trifle in-bred (the way to increase market and impact is to broaden to include the needs of those who do not yet subscribe). The outcome is a diet of which almost half the modules so far announced are on Third World topics, almost a quarter on systematic topics (acid rain, urban transport etc.) and the rest shared between the UK and the remainder of the developed world. Contributions on physical geography are rare. Whether this overall balance reflects impartiality is open to debate.

One final aspect of content is best passed over rapidly. One of the six modules in each issue currently takes the form of a computer program with explanatory notes. Whilst there is undoubtedly a need for good geographical software, and Mary Glasgow Publications may well act to satisfy it, the inclusion of programs in an information file seems inappropriate and detracts from the value of the package. The programs themselves are acceptable but unexciting, and are likely to be obsolete long before the rest of the material.



H4-tech valley - an illustration from Geoffie No 7
Sources: Maps in The Economist, 30 January 1983 and The Guardian, 20 April 1982

Geoffie is an important development, lying midway between published annual digests of statistics and the Geographical Association's "This Changing World" features. The material is up-to-date, clear and well referenced, and as such will be a valuable background source for both teachers and pupils. The free license for subscribers to photocopy modules for use in their own institution makes the subscription cost-effective.

Nevertheless, there is no room for complacency. The balance of topics does not entirely reflect upper school syllabus composition. More

important, to bring *Geoffie* into line with the principles of Information Technology decade will require a thorough shake-out of content, ensuring and integration. A comprehensive alpha-numeric referencing system for modules, sections and tables would initially be time and money, but it would not really erode data search procedures to be developed as a format base builds up over years. The first annual report of *Geoffie* will probably need to go to great effort, keep trying - a high prize indeed for such a small venture.

Chess words

by Hugh David

Quin Reading Games
Single boards, 70p each. Set of eight with dice and counters, £4.30
Cresswell Publishing Company Ltd, 311 Worcester Road, Milverton, Gloucestershire, WR14 1AN

Imagine Snakes and Ladders with neither the reptiles nor the woodwork and you have a fair idea of *Quin Reading Games*, a set of word recognition games designed by M.F.A. remedial teacher Vera Quin. The rules are very simple: up to four pupil-players use a board composed of 100 squares. These alternate like a chess board; there are blue and white squares, and squares in which a single phrase is printed.

Throwing a die to determine their moves, the players progress across the board. If they land on a word square they stop, if they land on a word they have to read it. If they read the word they climb to the square above. If they can't they slip back to the one below.

Intended as a "first-aid kit" for children in remedial classes in comprehensive schools, the games' big advantage is that they are almost entirely self-motivating, leaving the teacher free to concentrate on work with individual children.

There are eight different boards each bearing a set of 50 related words. Two are at basic level - 50 words from the 100 most common; another 50 from the 200 most common - while the remainder are more advanced, with games based on "position in space" words, time words, exercise instructions, public notices, addresses and job advertisements. (Throw the right die on this last one and you can climb from "TV rates and conditions" to "home improvement".)

Cheap and durable (all the boards are plastic-faced on both sides), the *Quin Reading Games* are designed to complement the new four-lingo-based Word Games. Very definitely popular with 7-14-year-olds, they are assured - at least until someone, somewhere comes up with the definitive remedial reading game that's based on Space Invaders.

A one-day course for teachers, entitled "The Normans are Coming!" is intended for those who are going to use the BBC School TV *Zig Zag* series next September and October. The course will be given on Wednesday, July, and repeated on Thursday, September 15. It runs from 10.30am to 1pm. Further information can be obtained from: the Education Officer, HM Tower of London, EC3N 4AB. Telephone: 01-975-0765.

Active life

by Joan Freeman

Very Personally Yours
Menstruation and feminine hygiene: leaflets and slides. Leaflets free; slides with notes, £7.50.
Kotex Products Advisory Service, Kimbley-Clark Ltd, Larkfield, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7TS.

Kotex have produced a brief, useful introduction to the onset of menstruation, in the form of leaflets, booklets and slides for teachers. It is intended to act as a base on which the teacher can construct her own lessons and so does not aim to be comprehensive. In fact, there are suggested break-off points during the slide presentation. Interesting projects, a complete teaching plan, and a booklet for slow learners.

The texts have some contemporary touches: in describing the onset of sexual maturity, for example, they suggest that one day "if you wish" you may have children - no assumptions about childbearing as

an outcome of the fertile state. I like the explanatory drawing of the tree in its four seasons to the onset of menstruation and the related thread throughout the text that menstruation is normal and healthy and should not interfere in any way with a girl's active life.

Some ethnic groups, however, may object to the advice that girls can be readily used for their first. Although one of the leaflets states that "pimples do not appear until you are 14 or 15, some parents may feel differently.

This teaching resource could be useful as an attractive introduction to the excellent slides, especially the excellent diagrams, push-in, and it does serve to underline sanitary products. There is also a brief history, which is useful to use in conjunction with the use of tampons of soft paper. Clearly it is not the technology which has changed, but social attitudes toward menstruation.

Simple buildings

by Carolyn O'Grady

The essence of a good construction system is simplicity: a simple basic unit which interlocks easily with others. With this criterion the new four-lingo construction system should be extremely successful. The units are plastic equilateral triangular shapes which snap together at almost any angle to build up three-dimensional models. The simplest three-dimensional shape - the triangle - could also be flat - is a triangle, a triangular pyramid. Much more complex shapes can also be built.

The sets come in blister packs of varying size. A pack of 24 pieces costs £3.95 including VAT; 60 pieces cost £7.95, 100 pieces, £11.50 and a pack of 200 pieces, £20. The company say that square and pentagonal pieces will soon be available to complement the



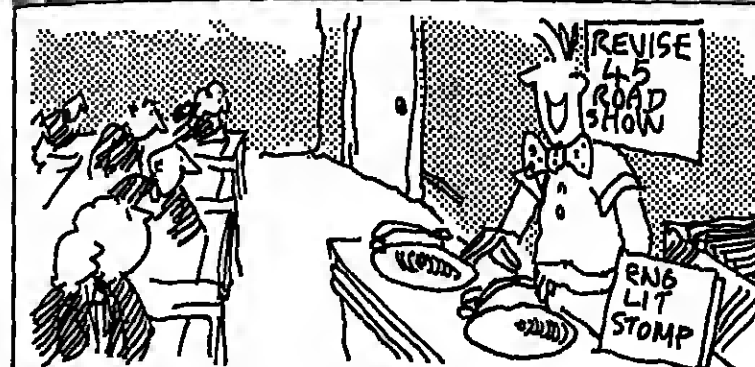
triangular pieces. Polytron is available in a range of colors including Selfridge's, Early Learning and the Design Centre. It can be obtained direct from Polytron Ltd, Meadowview House, Oakborough Road, Ravenshoe, Devon, Devon, NNG 8EW.

Flora and fauna at home

A major new permanent exhibition opens this week at the Natural History Museum. The exhibition is devoted to plant and animal life in Great Britain. Some 2,000 species in the form of real specimens, models and photographs will be included, arranged according to habitat. An introductory sequence will show how events in the past 20,000 years have determined which plants and animals live in this country; and there are also sections on identifica-

tion and conservation and a lot of specimens. The exhibition is on the top floor of the museum, and occupies square meters. The seven square meters covered are: urban and woodland; highland; wetland; coastal and inland; and dunes, woodland; and sea and estuary. The exhibition is open to the public from 10.30am to 5.30pm. Further information can be obtained from: the Education Officer, HM Tower of London, EC3N 4AB. Telephone: 01-975-0765.

MEDIA



Radio swots

Jane Last on revision programmes

As pressure mounts, and the stress of approaching examinations starts to bite, local radio stations are doing their bit for young listeners.

Capital Radio is warning biology pupils not to repeat a mistake made last year by a youngster who believed that sperm are made in the testicles, while Essex Radio advises children that "passive revision" leads to day-dreaming and that asking for help is a sign of real intelligence.

All round the country, Exam Specialists and Revision Specialists are being slotted in between pop and rock records. Education experts sit in studios waiting for calls from children who want test-minute help.

It seems that today's schoolchildren prefer the voice of their disc jockey telling them how to revise. And it is the rock medium and the voice of someone they respect outside school that makes these broadcasts of value, rather than the information they transmit. Essex Radio's DJ, The Hairy Eyeball, will sum up advice given to South Eastern children who phone in each evening and will, they tell me, be taken seriously.

BBC Radio Bristol were among the first away, with their *Six O'Clock Rock Exam Special* which began on April 11. Disc jockey A.1 Read hosted the two-hour show, with five educationalists and a group of students in the studio, each evoking for three weeks. Phone-in lines were open for pupils to call in with their problems, all interspersed with a lot of music.

They dealt with 29 courses, including computer studies, typewriting, accounts, commerce, metalwork, woodwork and childcare as well as all the main subjects. Producer Jane Stacey, a teacher seconded from Avon Education Authority, said that the panel of teachers is unpaid. "But they appreciate that it is important to extend their job from the classroom to the studio."

The approach on the air is more concerned with exam technique. "We give you solid practical pointers to avoid losing marks," said Jane Stacey. "People have stuck their necks out and said 'x' hasn't come up for two years, so maybe it'll come up this time."

Mrs Jane Adams, French teacher at a large comprehensive, was quite impressed with the advice. The programme concentrated on the aural exam. "It emphasized that the children should revise for it out loud and put in masses of adjectives," said Mrs Adams. "It was confidence-building."

Maths master Mr Kevin Collins was least enthusiastic about the mathematics *Exam Special*. "It won't substitute hard work," he said. He thought answers could be confusing because of different approaches to maths, and variations between examination boards. The use of calculators is a case in point. "It is light entertainment for students. It just bores people up, which is okay, but doesn't really answer problems."

Capital Radio broadcast 10-minute *Revision Recipes* each day until May 6, and now have a *Revision Line* off-the-air phone-in for two will answer questions on a different subject each evening with an on-air summing up and a *Revision Line* (Mini-Round-Up) on the *Breakfast Show* the next morning.

Mr Bob White, head of science at Buntingford School, Oxfordshire, thought the biology *Revision Recipes* were good as reinforcement of what pupils had already been told, but he was sur-

prised that plant and animal types which take up quite a lot of the syllabus were omitted. As well as running a phone-in and publishing a fact sheet, Essex Radio have broadcast advice on coping with parents and revision.

Producer Andrew Marshall, said "The programme was aimed at parents as well as children. It is very important to persuade them you don't have to work all hours God sent. That can be counter-productive, they need breaks." He said that parents must understand it's not the end of the world if they find their children watching their favourite tv programme.

BBC Radio Newcastle runs a project for English Literature students. They have tapes of 20 programmes reviewing all the Royal Shakespeare Company's productions in the city over the last two years.

"The Play's the Thing" gives detailed background, discussion of plot, characters, author and historic setting, and includes extracts from the plays. Mr John McKinnel, English Lecturer at Durham University and Mr George English, a lecturer seconded to Radio Newcastle from Durham Education Authority teamed up to work on the programmes which included interviews with RSC directors, actors, university professors and experts on Elizabethan tragedy and Russian literature.

Copies are available for schools, and the archive contains reviews of 11 Shakespearean plays.

Miss Eileen Thompson, head of English and drama at Ralph Gardner High School, North Shields, has a copy of the *Midsummer Night's Dream* programme for her O level English class. "I think it has been particularly useful for children to take home for private listening," she said.

Feminine Radio will be concentrating on stress, with health advisors giving tips on the importance of relaxation from the end of this month. Beacon Radio will also be interviewing psychologists on how to cope with psychological pressure at exam time. Their classical music presenter Mark Stein will also give a critique on pieces of music on the syllabus during his programmes.

BBC Radio Nottingham are running absolutely last-minute revision help on the evening before each exam for a fortnight from June 6. Students can phone a teacher in the studio and speak on or off the air for help in their exam the following day.

Radio Orwell is giving revision tips every day, and have also broadcast a programme called *What I do now*, with local careers officers, headmasters, Job Centre staff and an RAF careers officer giving help. And for those who don't know what to do after the exams, BBC Radio Birmingham have published a guide to help unemployed people get practical advice. *Handy Addresses* was written by education producer June Harben.

It seems that while the efforts of local radio stations are unlikely to tip the balance for borderline pupils, they do help to boost the confidence and stimulate youngsters. The real value seems to lie in the fact that radio is another medium, and an alternative voice to reinforce the teacher's.

On the other hand, BBC Radio Bristol report that most children use the phone-in lines to say "Hello" to Fred, Sue or Sally and wish them luck in their algebra exam rather than to ask for revision advice. While for those who do ring up for help, the most popular request is "Can you guess the questions?"

Potters' weel

by Richard Dunnill

EDUCATION RADIO
Economies: Supply and Demand BBC Radio. Five 20-minute programmes shown in March, to be repeated November 31-23. Teacher's notes available. Also a book: *Economics (O level): Supply and Demand: the Potherbridge Challenge*. £1.65

Supply and demand analysis is one of those areas that, although vital to a student's understanding of economics, can all too often be seen as dry or even boring! This series is a credible attempt to bring the topic alive, and to show its relevance to the real world.

It is constructed around an imaginary situation in which the character called Mike has been left in charge of the Potherbridge Pottery by his aunt, who is away for a year. Sarah the potter helps him, and the series follows their efforts to run the business efficiently.

Mike's first task was the problem of price and demand. Advice was given to students on recording data, and time allowed to work out the figures. Six technical definitions were given; market research was done; and Sarah the potter showed a healthy scepticism about much of the process!

The following four programmes included: costs and the supply curve; elasticity; the effects of changing incomes and tastes upon demand; long and short runs; and the idea of an economic "model". Social costs and the political and moral basis of decisions were also mentioned.

The O level standard of the programme, however, may have tempted their use since many classes are mixed, and even for good O level students, some of the language was demanding - as was the quantity of economics per programme.

But this snappy, somewhat tongue-in-cheek approach was very appealing, and generally the series could be recommended.

BRIEFINGS

radio & tv

For schools

Merry Go Round (Monday, 11.00, Wednesday, 14.40 BBC1)
"How else to make it go?" is a unit of new programmes on renewable energy. "Turn to the Wind" is for eight and nine-year-olds.

Voix de France (Monday, 11.20 VHF4)
What do Parisians think of the now "ventro de Paris" - the hole where les Halles used to be? Sixth form students hear interviews.

Introducing Geography (Monday, 14.00 VHF4)
The first of three programmes about living in Third World countries. "A Hard Life" is a dramatization for 10 to 12-year-olds.

The Living Body (Tuesday, 10.45 ITV)
"The Breath of Life" shows 12 to 14-year-olds the function of lungs, heart and blood.

Middle English (Tuesday, 11.05, Thursday, 10.04 ITV)
Gerald Durrell introduces his own selection of poetry describing the animals he works with.

Mindstretchers (Tuesday, 11.40, Wednesday, 10.40, Friday, 10.40 BBC1)
In "What affects the climate?", 10 and 11-year-olds investigate the climates of four places.

Listening to Music (Tuesday, 11.40 VHF4)
The last of those programmes for 11 to 13-year-olds features the work of Benjamin Britten, with extracts from *Noye's Fludde*.

Stories and Rhymes (Tuesday, 14.40 VHF4)
"The Narguin and the Stars" is a four-part story for seven to ten-year-olds about an orphan who goes to live

with relations on a remote Australian sheep farm.

The English Programme (Wednesday, 10.35 ITV)

A new series about how the media represent the world begins with a programme on youth. "Young Once" includes film of young people from the fifties to the present day.

with relations on a remote Australian sheep farm.

The English Programme (Wednesday, 10.35 ITV)

A new series about how the media represent the world begins with a programme on youth. "Young Once" includes film of young people from the fifties to the present day.



Benjamin Britten

Oral History Resource (Wednesday, 14.20 VHF4)

What were conditions at work like for 13 and 14-year-olds at the beginning of this century? How was it that some people did not know how to make tea at the age of 30? A series of interviews with older people show 13 to 15-year-olds what life was like 50 years ago.

Radio Geography: 16-19 (Thursday, 14.20 VHF4)
A unit of programmes providing some geographical and economic background to current BBC topics. "Industry and Development within the EEC" is presented by Lord Derek Ezzon and includes interviews with Viscount, Avonon, Sir Monty Plunkett and Jacques Solvay.

Stories and Rhymes (Tuesday, 14.40 VHF4)
"The Narguin and the Stars" is a four-part story for seven to ten-year-olds about an orphan who goes to live

with relations on a remote Australian sheep farm.

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*Please add £8.40 for post, packing and insurance. Then add 15% VAT



Combining all the charm of *The Ghost Train* and *Winnie-the-Pooh*, *Hangover Junction* is a six-part radio serial for (to British ears in both style and origin). Produced in five-minute episodes by the tightly-knit Children's Radio Workshop of Australia (forget all about Ealing! Evergreen, most of the voices are very nearly standard English!) It is the story of life in an outback railway station - a forgotten halt "at the dusty end of the line".

There is a crusty station-master, a crocheting cloaking lady called Mrs T, and, lurking in the luggage office, a crime-busting threesome billed as Australia's answer to Batman and Robin. The wise-cracking Garden Gnome is permanently waiting collection! Possum has been there since time immemorial; while Betty, the bat with superhuman powers, flies in and out as the plot dictates, making telephone ring and receiving messages from around the globe.

Aimed at junior-aged children, the serial is fast-moving and slick, with a lively, instantly recognizable signature tune. In Australia, audience participation is positively encouraged. Every letter addressed to the Junction receives an answer; specific story suggestions contributed by listeners are as far as possible built into the script (as idea the BBC might like to try with *The Archers*). Whether British children would avail themselves of this facility can only be guessed at. Would they even know what a possum looks like?

Enquiries to Alma Arts, 27 Cross St, London N1.



THE OBSERVER WORLD PRESS SERVICE FOR SCHOOLS

The increasing importance of current affairs in the school curriculum has encouraged The Observer to introduce a new Schools Service. Subscribers to the Service will receive, on a monthly basis, extracts and articles chosen from a wide spectrum of the

world's leading Press accompanied by background material and exercises in the field of current affairs, social studies and media studies. The Service will start in September and the subscription will be £36 a year (ten packs), inclusive of postage.

I would like to subscribe to The Observer World Press Service for Schools and enclose a cheque for £36 payable to The Observer Ltd.

Please send me more details of The Observer World Press Service for Schools, including a sample package of material.

The Observer Ltd, Editors, The Observer World Press Service, The Observer Ltd, 5 St Andrew's Hill, London EC4V 3JA.

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B. (Tel: Stockton 581444).
a-27th May, 1983.

ECONOMICS

(11-18 mixed comprehensive, 822 East, South Bark; Middlesbrough, Middlesbrough 466101).

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LEICESTERSHIRE

OUTWAY SIXTH FORM

The Newark, Leicestershire

Roll 730

BIOLOGY Scale 1

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Tel: 0533 211111

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Head of Department
English

Head of Department
Mathematics

Head of Department
Science

Head of Department
Other Asstas

Head of Department
Modern Languages

Head of Department
Other Asstas

Head of Department
Other Asstas

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PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Headmaster/Headmistress required. Salary: £11,000 - £12,000 p.a. Apply to: Headmaster, Newland Preparatory School, Newland, Sussex. Tel: 02534 12345.

By Subject Classification
Arts and Design

Other Asstas
Modern Languages

History
Other Asstas

Mathematics
Head of Department

Science
Head of Department

Other Asstas
Modern Languages

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WATFORD COLLEGE

Head of Department of Business Studies

Grade IV

(Salary at present £13,491-£16,117 p.a. + £246 p.a. Fringe allowance)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates with a proven record of achievement for the above post which will be available from 1 September, 1983.

Watford is a major and expanding commercial centre and the successful applicant will be expected to lead the development of new courses at all levels and to promote existing work which is mainly at advanced level.

Application forms and further details are available from the Chief Administrative Officer, Watford College, Hempsstead Road, Watford, Herts WD1 3EZ. (Tel. Watford 41211, Ext. 56.) Closing date for receipt of completed applications 6 June, 1983.

Tayside Regional Council

FURTHER EDUCATION

ANGUS TECHNICAL COLLEGE, KEPTIE ROAD, ARBROATH

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the following post:

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND GENERAL STUDIES

Salary Grade - H.O.D. 6 - £14,874

The successful applicant will be holding a promoted post in Further Education and be capable of leading a Department involved with Business Studies, Distribution and other courses run on full-time, part-time and VTS basis.

Application forms and further details may be obtained from the Principal at the above address to whom completed applications should be returned by Friday, 3 June 1983.



SENIOR LECTURER/HEAD OF F.E. CENTRE AT DAVENTRY

The Centre will be housed in specially adapted premises next to the Daventry Education Centre. There is a successful and established Adult Education programme and full-time, VTS, and part-time courses are planned. Applications are invited from teachers with appropriate experience.

LECTURER II in Adult Education at Daventry F.E. Centre to lead in the organisation of a well-established Adult Education programme and to participate in teaching at the Centre.

Application forms and further details from: The Principal, Northampton College of Further Education, St. George's Road, South Lane South, Northampton NN3 5RP. Tel. (0604) 403322

Cleveland Education Committee CLEVELAND COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN Director of Studies for Visual Communications

(Re-Advertisement) (Head of Department Grade II)

Salary: £11,406-£12,864

Applications are invited from suitably qualified graduates with experience in professional practice and education for the above post, which is available from 1st September, 1983.

The person appointed will be responsible to the Principal for the general College duties, including publicity, and for the Academic leadership of an Area of Studies, including a DATEC Higher Diploma in Visual Communications and non-advanced courses in Photography and A.V. Applicants must be well-informed on the implications of new technology within the field of Visual Communications.

Previous applications will automatically be re-considered. Application forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Principal, Cleveland College of Art and Design, 1, Lane, Middleborough, Cleveland TS8 7JF. (Tel. 0642) 221441, to whom they should be returned no later than 6th June, 1983.

